



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

COW2019500140

April 23, 2019

Taylor-Scott Amarel  
Muckrock News DEPT MR 71275  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144

Dear Taylor-Scott Amarel:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) request for received in this office on April 15, 2019 regarding the Emails sent to DHSBeijing.CIS@uscis.dhs.gov containing the following non-case-sensitive keystring in the content or headers of the emails, "anthonyjim85@gmail.com" from January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2018.

After carefully considering your request, we must deny it in its entirety pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6).

Exemption (b)(6) permits the government to withhold all information about individuals in personnel, medical and similar files where the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The types of documents and/or information that we have withheld may consist of birth certificates, naturalization certificates, drivers' licenses, social security numbers, home addresses, dates of birth, or various other documents and/or information belonging to a third party that are considered personal.

In order to obtain these records your request must demonstrate one or more of the following criteria:

- Written authorization from the individual(s) permitting disclosure of the records to you, which consists of a written statement from the records' subject(s) stating his/her full name, current address, and date and place of birth. Additionally, the written statement must be signed by the records' subject(s) and the signature must either be notarized or signed under penalty of perjury;
- Proof of parentage with the parent's verification of identity if the subject of record is a minor at the time of the request;
- Proof of court-appointed guardianship with the guardian's verification of identity;
- Proof that the subject(s) of your request is deceased; or
- A clear demonstration that the public interest in disclosure outweighs the personal privacy interest(s) of the individual(s) and that significant public benefit would result from the disclosure of the requested records.

Your request did not satisfy any of the above criteria. Where a FOIA requester seeks information about individuals in personnel, medical, and similar files FOIA Exemption 6 protects from disclosure information that, if released, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. To determine whether the disclosure of personal information would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, Exemption 6 requires the government to balance the privacy interests of individuals that would be compromised by disclosure of government records about them against the public interest in release of the records. The only relevant public interest to be considered is the extent to which the requested information sheds light on the agency's performance of its statutory duties. Where the privacy interest outweighs the public, the information is protected from disclosure. In the absence of written authorization permitting disclosure of the records to you, proof that the subject is deceased, or a

demonstration of a public interest that would outweigh the subject's privacy interest, you are not entitled to the requested records under the FOIA.

You have the right to file an administrative appeal within 90 days of the date of this letter. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and the agency's decision. You may file an administrative FOIA appeal to USCIS at: USCIS FOIA/PA Appeals Office, 150 Space Center Loop, Suite 500, Lee's Summit, MO 64064-2139. Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

If you would like to discuss our response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Jill Eggleston, for assistance at:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
National Records Center, FOIA/PA Office  
P.O. Box 648010  
Lee's Summit, MO 64064-8010  
Telephone: (800) 375-5283  
E-Mail: [FOIAPAQuestions@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:FOIAPAQuestions@uscis.dhs.gov)

A FOIA Public Liaison is an agency official to whom FOIA requesters can raise concerns about the service the requester has received from the agency's FOIA Office. FOIA Public Liaisons are responsible for assisting in reducing delays, increasing transparency and understanding of the status of requests, and assisting in the resolution of disputes.

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal Agencies. The OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
Telephone: (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448  
Email: [OGIS@nara.gov](mailto:OGIS@nara.gov)  
Website: [ogis.archives.gov](http://ogis.archives.gov)

Sincerely,



Jill A. Eggleston  
Director, FOIA Operations